

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire having a framework of a carcass toroidally extending between a pair of bead portions with the crown portion of said carcass reinforced with a belt layer containing at least two plies, wherein at least one ply of said belt layer is formed by embedding in rubber a metallic cord obtained by shaping a bundle prepared by paralleling a plurality of metallic wires having substantially circular sections in an unstranded state with a binder of a polymeric material having a melting point of 50°C to 200°C, whereby said binder melts during the curing of the molded tire to provide a clearance between the metallic wires for the penetration of the rubber into said clearance.

2. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire having a framework of a carcass toroidally extending between a pair of bead portions with the crown portion of said carcass reinforced with a belt layer containing a plurality of plies, wherein at least one ply of said carcass is formed by embedding in rubber a metallic cord obtained by shaping a bundle prepared by paralleling a plurality of metallic wires having substantially circular sections in an unstranded state with a binder of a polymeric material having a melting point of 50°C to 200°C, whereby said binder melts during the curing of the molded tire to provide a clearance between the metallic wires for the penetration of the rubber into said clearance.

3. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire of claim 1, wherein the polymeric material is low-density polyethylene polypropylene, or medium-density polyethylene.

4. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire of claim 2, wherein the polymeric material is low-density polyethylene polypropylene, or medium-density polyethylene.

5. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire of claim 1, wherein the binder circumscribes the metallic wires to form the metallic cord.

6. (New) ~~A~~ The pneumatic tire of claim 2, wherein the binder circumscribes the metallic wires to form the metallic cord.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~metallic cord for reinforcing a~~ pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein said metallic wires are 0.15 to 0.3 mm in diameter.
8. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord~~ pneumatic tire of claim 1, wherein the wires have different shapes and different pitch phases.
9. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord~~ pneumatic tire of claim 1, wherein the wires have different circular, elliptic, or flat oval sectional shapes.
10. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord~~ pneumatic tire of claim 1, wherein the diameter of the metallic wires are 0.15 to 0.40 mm.
11. (Currently Amended) The ~~metallic cord for reinforcing a~~ pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein said binder is a cord, a tape or a string.
12. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord~~ pneumatic tire of claim 5, wherein the binder is in the shape of a tape having a width of 5 to 20 mm.
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord~~ pneumatic tire of claim 5, wherein the binder is spirally wrapped around the wires in the longitudinal direction.
14. (Currently Amended) The ~~metallic cord for reinforcing a~~ pneumatic tire according to claim 2, wherein said metallic wires are 0.15 to 0.3 mm in diameter.
15. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord~~ pneumatic tire of claim 2, wherein the wires have different shapes and different pitch phases.
16. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord~~ pneumatic tire of claim 2, wherein the wires have circular, elliptic, or flat oval sectional shapes.
17. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord~~ pneumatic tire of claim 2, wherein the diameter of the metallic wires are 0.15 to 0.40 mm.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~metallic cord for reinforcing a~~ pneumatic tire according to claim 2, wherein said binder is a cord, a tape or a string.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord~~ pneumatic tire of claim 6, wherein the binder is in the shape of a tape having a width of 5 to 20 mm.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~cord~~ pneumatic tire of claim 16, wherein the binder is spirally wrapped around the wires in the longitudinal direction.